UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Lorenda Hill	:		
2416 Sharswood Street	;		
Philadelphia, PA 19121	:	#	
	:		·
Plaintiff	:		
	•		
v.	:		
Jay W Graen	:		
20226 E Admiral Place, #1134	:		
Catoosa, OK 74015	:		
	:		
And	:		
Werner Enterprises, Inc.	:		
14507 Frontier Road	:		
Omaha, NE 68138	:		
Defendants	:		
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COMPLAINT

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, Lorenda Hill, is a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing at the address listed in the caption of this Complaint.
- 2. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Jay W Graen, is a resident of the State of Oklahoma, residing at the address listed in the caption of this Complaint.
- 3. Defendant, Werner Enterprises, Inc., is a business entity registered to do business in the State of Nebraska, with a business address listed in the caption of this Complaint.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this Civil

Action-Complaint in that the Plaintiff is a citizen of the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania and the Defendant, Jay W. Graen,, upon information and belief is a

resident of the State of Oklahoma, and the Defendant, Werner Enterprises, Inc.,

- upon information and belief is a corporate entity with its principal place of business in the State of Nebraska and the amount in controversy in this case, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum of \$75,000.
- 5. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) and (b) in that this is a judicial district in the Defendant(s) are residents and/or conduct business in this judicial district.
- 6. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b) (3) in that the Defendant(s) are subject to courts in personal jurisdiction in this judicial district.

FACTS

- 7. On or about August 15, 2016, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Plaintiff, was the operator of a motor vehicle, which was traveling on I-76, at or near mile marker 187, in Franklin County, PA.
- 8. At or about the same date and time, Defendant, Jay W. Graen, was the operator of a motor vehicle, which was owned by Defendant, Werner Enterprises, Inc., which was traveling at or near the aforesaid intersection and/or location of Plaintiff's vehicle.
- 9. At about the same date and time, Defendant's vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle collision with Plaintiff's vehicle.
- 10. At all times relevant hereto, upon information and belief, Defendant, Jay W. Graen, was operating the aforementioned defendant, Werner Enterprises, Inc.'s motor vehicle as defendant's agent, servant and/or employee acting in the scope of their agency.
- 11. The aforesaid motor vehicle collision was caused by the Defendant negligently and/or carelessly, operating his vehicle in such a manner so as to rear-end Plaintiff's vehicle.

- 12. As a direct and proximate result of the joint and/or several and/or direct or vicarious negligence and/or carelessness of the Defendants, Plaintiff has sustained serious permanent personal injuries and damages.
- 13. As a result of the incident, Plaintiff suffered severe and permanent injuries as set forth more fully below.

COUNT I Lorenda Hill v. Jay W. Graen Negligence

- 14. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 15. The negligence and/or carelessness of Defendant, which was the direct and proximate cause of the incident and the injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff consists of, but is not limited to:
 - a. Rear-ending Plaintiff's vehicle:
 - b. Operating his vehicle into Plaintiff's lane of travel:
 - c. Failing to maintain proper distance between vehicles;
 - d. Operating said vehicle without regard for the rights or safety of Plaintiff or others;
 - e. Failing to have said vehicle under proper and adequate control;
 - f. Operating said vehicle at a dangerous and excessive rate of speed under the circumstances;
 - g. Violation of the assured clear distance rule;
 - h. Failure to keep a proper lookout;

- i. Failure to apply brakes earlier to stop the vehicle without rear-ending the Plaintiff and/or Plaintiff's vehicle;
- j. Being inattentive to his duties as an operator of a motor vehicle;
- k. Disregarding traffic lanes, patterns, and other devices;
- Driving at a high rate of speed which was high and dangerous for conditions;
- m. Failing to remain continually alert while operating said vehicle:
- r. Failing to perceive the highly apparent danger to others which the actions and/or inactions posed;
- Failing to give Plaintiff meaningful warning signs concerning the impending collision;
- p. Failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid a collision;
- q. Failing to be highly vigilant and maintain sufficient control of said vehicle and to bring it to a stop on the shortest possible notice;
- r. Operating said vehicle with disregard for the rights of Plaintiff, even though she was aware or should have been aware of the presence of Plaintiff and the threat of harm posed to Plaintiff;
- s. Continuing to operate the vehicle in a direction towards the Plaintiff's vehicle when he/she saw, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have seen, that further operation in that direction would result in a collision;
- t. Driving too fast for conditions;
- u. Violating the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code;

- v. Failing to operate said vehicle in compliance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pertaining to the operation and control of motor vehicles
- 16. As a direct result of the negligent and/or careless, conduct of Defendant, Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function, permanent serious disfigurement, and/or aggravation of certain injuries, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.
- 17. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiffs' great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently, and may in the future suffer great pain, anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time into the future.
- 18. As an additional result of the carelessness and/or negligence of Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries along with the physical injuries suffered.
- 19. As a direct result of the negligent and/or careless conduct of the Defendant, Plaintiff suffered damage to Plaintiff's personal property, including a motor vehicle, which Plaintiff was operating at the time of the aforesaid motor vehicle collision; including but not limited to, storage fees and towing, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.
- 20. As a further result of the injuries sustained, plaintiffs have, are presently, and may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's further loss and detriment.
- 21. Furthermore, in addition to all the injuries and losses suffered by Plaintiff,
 Plaintiff has also incurred or will incur medical, rehabilitative and other related expenses in an
 amount equal to and/or in excess of the basic personal injury protection benefits required by the

Pennsylvania Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law, 75 Pa.C.S. Section 1701, et. Seq., as amended, for which he makes a claim for payment in the present action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against Defendant, in an amount in excess of Seventy Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other relief this court deems necessary.

COUNT II Lorenda Hill v. Werner Enterprises, Inc. Negligent Entrustment

- 22. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth fully at length herein.
- 23. The negligence and/or carelessness of Defendant, Werner Enterprises, Inc., which was a proximate cause of the aforesaid motor vehicle collision and the resultant injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff, consists of, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Permitting Defendant, Jay W. Graen, to operate the motor vehicle without first ascertaining whether or not he/she was capable of properly operating said vehicle;
 - b. Permitting Jay W. Graen, to operate the motor vehicle when Defendant, Werner Enterprises, Inc., knew, or in the exercise of due care and diligence, should have known that Defendant, Jay W. Graen, was capable of committing the acts of negligence set forth above;
 - c. Failing to warn those persons, including the Plaintiff, that Defendant,
 Werner Enterprises, knew, or in the existence of due care and diligence should have known, that the Plaintiff would be exposed to Jay W.
 Graen's negligent operation of the motor vehicle.

- 24. As a direct result of the negligent and/or careless conduct of Defendant, the Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function, permanent serious disfigurement, aggravation of certain injuries and/or other ills and injuries all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.
- 25. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiff's great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the future suffer great anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time into the future.
- 26. As an additional result of the carelessness and/or negligence of Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries, along with the physical injuries suffered.
- 27. As a direct result of the negligent conduct of the Defendant, Plaintiff suffered damage to his/her personal property, including his/her motor vehicle, which Plaintiff was operating at the time of the aforesaid motor vehicle collision; including but not limited to, storage fees and towing, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.
- 28. As a further result of Plaintiff's injuries, she has in the past, is presently and may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's further loss and detriment.
- 29. Furthermore, in addition to all the injuries and losses suffered by Plaintiff, Plaintiff has also incurred or will incur medical, rehabilitative and other related expenses in an amount equal to and/or in excess of the basic personal injury protection benefits required by the Pennsylvania Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law, 75 Pa.C.S. Section 1701, et. Seq., as amended, for which she makes a claim for payment in the present action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against Defendant, in an amount in excess of Seventy Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other relief this court deems necessary.

COUNT III Lorenda Hill v. Werner Enterprises, Inc. Respondeat Superior

- 30. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 31. The negligence and/or carelessness of Defendant, itself and through its agent, the driver of the motor vehicle, acting at all times relevant hereto within the scope of the agency, which was the direct and proximate cause of the incident and the injuries and damages sustained by the plaintiff consist of, but is not limited to:
 - a. Rear-ending Plaintiff's vehicle;
 - b. Operating his vehicle into Plaintiff's lane of travel;
 - c. Failing to maintain proper distance between vehicles:
 - d. Operating said vehicle without regard for the rights or safety of Plaintiff or others:
 - e. Failing to have said vehicle under proper and adequate control;
 - f. Operating said vehicle at a dangerous and excessive rate of speed under the circumstances;
 - g. Violation of the assured clear distance rule;
 - h. Failure to keep a proper lookout;
 - Failure to apply brakes earlier to stop the vehicle without rear-ending the Plaintiff and/or Plaintiff's vehicle;

- j. Being inattentive to his duties as an operator of a motor vehicle;
- k. Disregarding traffic lanes, patterns, and other devices;
- Driving at a high rate of speed which was high and dangerous for conditions;
- m. Failing to remain continually alert while operating said vehicle;
- r. Failing to perceive the highly apparent danger to others which the actions and/or inactions posed;
- Failing to give Plaintiff meaningful warning signs concerning the impending collision;
- p. Failing to be highly vigilant and maintain sufficient control of said vehicle and to bring it to a stop on the shortest possible notice;
- q. Operating said vehicle with disregard for the rights of Plaintiff, even though he was aware or should have been aware of the presence of Plaintiff and the threat of harm posed to him;
- r. Continuing to operate the vehicle in a direction towards the Plaintiff's and/or co-defendants' vehicle when he saw, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have seen, that further operation in that direction would result in a collision;
- s. Driving too fast for conditions;
- t. Failing to operate said vehicle in compliance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pertaining to the operation and control of motor vehicles;

- 32. As a direct result of the negligent and/or careless, conduct of Defendant, Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function, permanent serious disfigurement, and/or aggravation of certain injuries, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.
- 33. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiffs' great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently, and may in the future suffer great pain, anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time into the future.
- 34. As an additional result of the carelessness and/or negligence of Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries along with the physical injuries suffered.
- 35. As a direct result of the negligent and/or careless conduct of the Defendant, Plaintiff suffered damage to Plaintiff's personal property, including a motor vehicle, which Plaintiff was operating at the time of the aforesaid motor vehicle collision; including but not limited to, storage fees and towing, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.
- 36. As a further result of the injuries sustained, Plaintiff has, is presently, and may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's further loss and detriment.
- 37. Furthermore, in addition to all the injuries and losses suffered by Plaintiff, Plaintiff has also incurred or will incur medical, rehabilitative and other related expenses in an amount equal to and/or in excess of the basic personal injury protection benefits required by the Pennsylvania Vehicle Financial Responsibility Law, 75 Pa.C.S. Section 1701, et. Seq., as amended, for which he makes a claim for payment in the present action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against Defendant, in an amount in excess of Seventy Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other relief this court deems necessary.

> SIMON & SIMON, P.C. BY: Joshua Baer, Esquire

VERIFICATION

I, ________, am the plaintiff in this action, and I hereby state that the facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that this verification is subject to 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 providing for criminal penalties for unsworn falsification to authorities.

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